(b) the extent of funds to be realised thereby RSU-wise; and

(c) the steps taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) have been selected for the first two rounds of disinvestment in the current financial year. The third round is expected to be undertaken after receipt of advice from the Disinvestment Commission.

(b) The extent of realisation from disinvestment will depend on market response both in India and abroad.

(c) (1) Action has been initiated to selecte merchant bankers as global coordinators and lead managers to manage the issues of VSNL and IOCL for the international as well as the domestic segments.

(2) Forty companies have been referred to the Disinvestment Commission for advice on sale and modalities.

imported Machinery in CIL

542. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of machines imported by Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries during the last three years are either laying idle or being underutilised/utilised below rated capacity;

(b) if so, the subsidiary-wise details of machinery/ parts imported thereof during each of the last three years and their utilisation status;

(c) the details of major machinery not being put to use or underutilised and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make full use of the installed capacity of these machines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Does not arise in view of reply at (a) above.

Loss of Hard Currency due to Misuse by Russian Importers

543. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "India losing $ 400 m to Russia under debt repayment scheme" as reported in the Statesman dated September 23, 1996.

(b) if so, whether the Government are losing millions of dollars in hard currency yearly due to reported misuse by Russian importers of a scheme for repayment of outstanding debt of the former Soviet Union.

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) the corrective steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Under the Inter-Governmental arrangements between India and Russia in 1993, the rupee debt owed by India to Russia is to be used exclusively for India's exports of goods and services to Russia. Some allegations of diversion of exports consignments to third country destinations through production of fake landing certificates, switching of cargoes on high seas, etc. have come to light. These would constitute violations of the Inter-Governmental arrangements agreed between India and Russia in 1993 and of the relevant customs procedures and adversely affect our exports to hard currency markets.

(d) Government take a serious view of such irregularities and are committed to check any illegal diversion of export consignments meant for Russia under the debt repayment route, to third countries. Apart from greater vigilance by the Governments enforcement agencies, such diversion is proposed to be prevented through the following additional measures under consideration :

(i) Exports through consignment sales by way of customs bonded warehouses in Russia.

(ii) Conclusion of a bilateral Customs Cooperation Agreement with the Govt. of Russia to facilitate better monitoring of export consignments by customs authorities of the two countries.

(iii) Insistence upon the Russian side to provide satisfactory proof of landing for export consignments.

Expenditure Management and Reforms Commission

544. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Non-plan expenditure of the Government has increased considerably during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have set up an expenditure management and reforms commission;

(d) if so, the main objectives and composition of the Commission;

(e) whether the Commission has submitted any report to the Government; and

(f) if so, the main recommendations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Non-Plan expenditure of the Central Government from 1993-94 onwards and the details thereof are given in the table below :

(Rs. crore)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96 RE
Total Non-Plan expenditure	98191	113361	134320
Interest Payments	36741	44060	52000
Defence	21845	23245	26879
Subsidies	12864	12982	13726
Police and internal security	2682	2665	3143
Pensions	3005	3643	4295
Tax collections	818	920	1096
Loan to States & UTs against net small saving collections	5000	9649	10112
Write off of loans to States	-	-	1010
Non-Plan transfer to State under FC award	1817	1701	5266
Issue of bonus shares	-	529	1035
Issue of voter identity cards	-	225	225
Other Non-Plan expenditure	13419	13742	15533

(c) to (f). As already announced in Budget speech, an Expenditure Management and Reforms Commission proposed to be constituted to advise the Government on the steps to be taken to control expenditure.

[Translation]

Safety of Coal Mines

545. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken for the protection and safety of the coal mines under each ancillary unit of Coal India Limited during the last three years;

(b) the amount spent by ancillary units of Coal India Limited for protection and safety of each coal mine during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the details of arrangement made for stowing of coal from mines by rail; and

(d) the amount spent on this account in different ancillary units during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Preventive steps as laid down in detail in the Coal Mines Regulations 1957, directives of Directorate General of Mines Safety, Expert Committee recommendations as also in the recommendations of various Courts of Inquiry, Safety Conferences, etc. are adopted by the mine-managements. Special emphasis is given in introducing roof bolting, roof stitching & steel support systems of roof supports and implementing comprehensive water management plans for precautions against inundation. For better observance of these steps, Government is promoting self-regulation by coal companies through internal safety audits, workers' participation in safety management, tripartite/bipartite reviews at various levels, training and retraining of work persons, observance of safety weeks and safety campaigns and national safety awards.

(b) Safety is an inherent aspect of operations in coal mining. As such, revenue expenditure made on some of the safety components can not be distinctly segregated from production expenditure. However, the amount spent on major safety-oriented items by Coal India Limited (CIL), both capital and revenue, during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 is as under :-

(figures in Rs. Lakhs)

Year	Capital	Revenue
1992-93	18,23	263,97
1994-94	21,47	282,82
1994-95	25,87	323,52

(c) and (d). Voids created in underground mines by extraction of coal are in some cases filled by sand stowing. No stowing material is brought by rail in any mine of CIL for the purpose of stowing. The amount spent on sand stowing in mines of CIL during the last three years has been as under :-

(Rs. in lakhs)

1993-94	107,25
1994-95	117,66
1995-96	123,86

[English]

R.R.Bs. in Orissa

546. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Regional Rural Banks functioning in Orissa at present, location-wise;

(b) the main objectives of these banks and the achievements made by them during the last two years and in 1996, so far;